

REMARKS

Claims 1, 4, 5, 6, 9 and 10 are pending in the application. Claims 1 and 6 have been amended. Claims 2, 3, 7, and 8 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

It is noted with appreciation that the Office Action has indicated that claims 3, 5, 7 and 8 would be allowable if rewritten to include all the limitations of the base claim and of any intervening claims. Independent claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of dependent claim 3 and of intervening dependent claim 2. Therefore, independent claim 1 and its dependent claims 4 and 5 are in condition to be allowed.

Independent claim 6 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of dependent claim 8 and of intervening dependent claim 7. Therefore, independent claim 6 and its dependent claims 9 and 10 are in condition to be allowed.

Accordingly, it is submitted that all of the pending claims 1, 4, 5, 6, 9 and 10 are now in condition to be allowed.

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 7, and 9 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent Publication No. 2006/0053218 to Thoren.

This rejection is moot since claims 2 and 7 have been canceled and claims 1, 4, 6 and 9 are in condition to be allowed for the reasons set forth above.

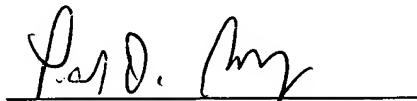
Therefore, the rejection of claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 7, and 9 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as anticipated by Thoren is obviated by the amendment and should be withdrawn.

It is respectfully requested for the reasons set forth above that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) be withdrawn, that claims 1, 4, 5, 6, 9 and 10 be allowed and that this application be passed to issue.

For the reasons set forth above, it is submitted that this amendment places the application in condition for allowance. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that this application be allowed and passed to issue. If this amendment is deemed to not place the application in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that it be entered for the purpose of appeal.

Respectfully Submitted,

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